

No. 4273 { CASH TERMS FOR ADVERTISEMENTS/  
For one inch and under, 25.; and 15. for every additional inch for each insertion.

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**FINEST FLORENCE OIL.**  
**ON SALE**  
BY THE UNDERSIGNED, AT THE AUSTRALIAN  
MART, MARKET-VENUE EAST,  
(50) FIFTY CANS of the best  
Florence Oil, each can contain-  
ing 30 flasks, at 25s. per case, for one or more  
cans, 1141  
**JAMES SIMMONS.**

**LEICESTER EWES AND RAMS.**  
THE undersigned is authorised to  
purchase, for cash,  
200 Leicester Ewes  
4 Ditto Rams  
To be delivered in Sydney within twenty-one  
days.  
**GEORGE A. LLOYD,**  
Auctioneer,  
City Mart, 474, George-street. 1140

**ON SALE, AT THE PATENT**  
SLIP—  
Muntz's patent metal sheathing, 18 to 26 in.  
Ditto ditto rods, 4 inch to 14 inch.  
Kauri pine timber, boards and spars. 1910

**UNIVERSARY REGATTA.**  
**CHOICE CHAMPAGNE,** in one  
dozen cases, 30s. per case  
Champagne claret (quantity), 10s. per dozen  
Good red and sherry wines, 15s. per dozen  
Bottle cork b.nd.y, in one dozen cases, at  
28s. each  
Ditto *Martell's* ditto, 15s. per gallon  
B.P. rum 7s. per gallon  
G.N. (key brand) 55s. per case  
Real Irish whiskey, 10s. per gallon  
Muesel raisins (in layers), 6s. per lb., by  
the box  
Box of almonds, 14 ds., per lb. by the box  
Also:—Tea, sugar, tobacco, cigars, raisins,  
currants, rice pickles, mustard, &c., &c.

**WOODS AND WHEHAN'S**  
Wine and Spirit Stores, George street  
Sydney, January 25. 1932

**GILMAN'S STORES.**  
**ON SALE, KILKILER AND WYATT'S**  
Pickles, quart and pint  
Mustard, 1 lb. and ½ lb.  
Said oil, espers  
Sauces, anchovies  
anchovy and hatter paste  
Bottled fruits, curry-powder, &c.  
— LAC —  
Moir and Son's preserved Aberdeen salmon  
Preserved Fawn herrings, in tins.  
**E. C. WEEKES AND CO.**  
1932 450, George-street, near the Post Office.

**BREWERS' ISINGLASS.**  
**ON SALE,** the finest Samory Book  
Isinglass, in bales, or quantities to suit  
purchasers—  
**E. C. WEEKES AND CO.,**

**EX ALPHA.**  
**T**HE undersigned has just received by the above vessel, a large and varied assortment of Fishing Tackle, which will be sold at greatly reduced prices.  
 4, 6, 12, 5, 30 and 50 fms. lines.  
 China twist and gut lines  
 Silk and hair lines  
 Hooks on gut, from No. 1 to No. 10  
 Hooks on hair, from No. 1 to No. 12  
 River baits from No. 1 to 12  
 Sea hooks, from No. 1 to 12  
 Pisces and sinkers  
 A large assortment of artificial flies  
 Walking sticks and lures  
 Bream reeds for rods &c., &c.  
 Best quality salmon gut.  
**T. WOOLLEY, George-street.**  
 Sydney, January 28, 1863

**MAVA SUGAR.** of superior and

**common qualities, for sale by**  
**S. WILKINSON, Jew.,**  
**Macquarie-place.**

**1957**

**LARD. LARD. LARD.**

**T**he Undersigned has on hand, a large quantity of the above mentioned article, at his establishment, 302, Pitt-street, and will dispose of the same at 25 per cent. less than the former prices charged by him.

**FREDERICK KOSTEN.**

Wanted, a Shopman for the above establishment.  
**2010**

**GOLD DUST.** — The undersigned will purchase any quantity of Californian Gold Dust, at the highest market rate.

**GEORGE A. LLOYD,**  
 City Marts, 474, George-street.  
 Sydney. January. **1876**

**SALES BY AUCTION.**

TO DEALERS AND OTHERS.

**MR. H. A. GRAVES** has received instructions to sell by auction, at his Clegg's, York-street, near the Adelphi Hotel, **THIS MORNING**, at half-past 10 o'clock, Without Reserve,  
The whole of the Household Furniture and Effects, comprising tables, chairs, sofas, bedsteads and bedding, glass cases, show glasses, three sets counter scales, large scales and a weight, a silver tea-tray, and sundries, too numerous to enumerate.  
Terms—Cash. 2000

**HOUSEHOLD FURNITURE, KITCHEN UTENSILS, &c.**

**MR. ALEXANDER MOORE** has received instructions to sell on the premises, King-street, two doors from York-street.

**THIS MORNING, at 11 o'clock,**  
Household furniture  
Kitchen utensils  
Tools, &c., &c.  
Terms—cash. 26

**THOMAS HURLEY** will sell by  
auction  
**THIS DAY, at 11 o'clock,**  
At premises situated in Parnamatta-street, opposite  
Cooper's Distillery—  
Household Furniture, consisting of chairs, tables,  
bedsteads, &c.; a large iron safe, a large iron  
chest drawers, metal and wainscot with copper  
top; and several sundries, &c., &c. And at  
his Rooms, George-street, opposite Drish-  
ton-street, at 2 o'clock, a quantity of wearing  
apparel, table covers, paper, &c. 26

**M. R. JOHN SMITH** has received  
instructions to sell by auction,  
**THIS DAY, at 11 o'clock,**  
At the residence of Mr. Brooker, Kent-street,  
the following property, to-wit:—

North, near Merkin-street - without rent.  
Dining tables, breakfast tables, cane chairs,  
wood chairs, sofas, bedsteads, beds, bed-  
room crockery, glass, knives and forks, picture  
frames, kitchen utensils, woman's chest and  
clothing, boxes, and a lot of useful - articles.  
1865

**HELENIE, NEAR KISSING POINT.**  
**M**R. PHILLIPS has received instruc-  
tions from Mr. Rogers, to sell by auc-  
tion, at 12 o'clock, on FRIDAY next, 31st instant, at 19 o'clock.  
The Furniture, Stock, &c., now remaining  
on the premises, consisting of -  
bedsteads, bedding, tables, chairs, dis-  
honest wares, chairs, &c. &c. &c. &c.  
very large and useful odds and ends, &c.  
four compartments, with shelves for glass,  
glass, and general stores; 2 fine trunks,  
2 boxes, 2 boxes, 2 boxes, 2 boxes, &c.  
other useful articles. And a lot of useful - articles.  
1865

a good cart and harness, saddle and bridle, two superior cows and calf, pigs and poultry.



## CIRCUMSTANTIAL EVIDENCE.

There has of late years been a great deal of discussion as to what is termed circumstantial evidence. The consequence has been that very erroneous notions have got abroad as to the value of this species of proof. Popular novelists, if they have not been the sole originators of this fallacy, have done very much to foster and increase it. To surround the hero or heroine with a mass of the most improbable circumstances, ending to create an appearance of guilt, which has no real foundation, is a favourite picture. Highly wrought sketches of this description usually make upon weak minds a more permanent impression than has been contemplated by the writer, to whose fertile brain alone they have owed their origin.

In this colony, the feeling to which we allude has of late gained ground. Proofs of this are of frequent occurrence. There is a morbid sympathy with the criminal who stands accused upon a charge which depends upon circumstantial evidence for its support. He is too often regarded as a mere victim, and one whom circumstances have combined to injure, rather than one whose guilt or innocence is to be impartially judged of by a mature consideration of the evidence upon which the charge against him is based. The frivolous and absurd nature of the "points" or "objections" which are continually taken and relied upon by the lower order of legal practitioners, in defending their clients, has done much towards increasing this feeling. The accused is regarded as one who is to be "got out of it" at all hazards.

We do not mean to say that an advocate is not bound to take every fair advantage which may arise in his client's favour. It is unquestionably his duty to do this, whether he believes that client innocent or guilty. But he has other duties to perform, to which he is bound to pay equal attention. These are his duty to the profession of which he is a member, and his duty to the tribunal of which he is an officer. In the fulfilment of these obligations he is bound to abstain from urging any objections which are not fairly arguable. He is bound to limit his defence of his client to fair and open grounds; giving up no advantage, indeed, but relying upon no plea or arguments which are palpably false and frivolous. We are sorry to say that a more objectionable course of proceeding is frequently to be seen in the practice of our lower Courts, and that even the appeals from their jurisdiction to that of the higher tribunals have occasionally had no better foundation than these frivolous and baseless objections.

Even during the last term there were instances of this nature. One appeal from the Quarter Sessions, in particular, was so palpably absurd and unfounded, as to draw upon the practitioner, at whose instance it was made, the severe rebuke of Sir ALFRED STURGES. Upon this occasion, too, the learned Chief Justice took an opportunity of commenting upon the erroneous notions, to which we have already alluded, as to the value of circumstantial evidence. These notions were condemned by his Honor as strongly as they were condemned by ourselves. In six and twenty years' experience, he said, as a barrister, a Crown law officer, and a Judge, he had never known a case where a conviction, based upon a clear and distinct chain of circumstantial testimony, had been found erroneous, although during the same period he had known many cases where positive evidence as to identity had been found to have been mistaken.

Our own experience of many years, as observers and recorders of judicial proceedings, fully accords with that of Sir ALFRED STURGES. We have seen very many cases in which the identity of individuals has been positively sworn to, and from various circumstances we have been compelled to believe that this evidence has been mistaken. There was one case in particular, where a man who had been indicted for the murder of a woman, was charged with the crime; but it was subsequently proved by six most respectable and credible witnesses, that the accused was elsewhere at the time the offence was said to have been committed. And yet there was no reason in this case to suspect wilful falsehood. The accused, positive as he had felt, was simply mistaken.

But there have been cases in which, although the swearing as to identity has been equally positive, there has been less reason to assume the perfect good faith of the swearers. The very possibility of an accusation originating in mere malice, or in a hastily formed and unwarranted conclusion, should operate as an additional caution for receiving such evidence as this with caution. Circumstances, on the other hand, cannot lie. They are mere facts, which are only so far important as they may tend to show the guilt or the innocence of the party accused. A set of facts, therefore, which tend to show that a particular crime must have been committed by a particular man, and by none other, are better and safer evidence of his guilt than the mere statement of an individual that he saw the offence committed; for this statement may, from error or from malice, be untrue. Most of the great criminals who have suffered in this country the extreme penalty of the law—Vidale, Ahern, Lynch, and the rest—have been convicted upon circumstantial evidence, but have admitted the justice of their conviction before suffering the penalty which was entailed upon them. Other convictions dependent upon mere individual testimony, have not always been so satisfactory. We will not mention instances of this nature to show the danger of relying too strongly upon the testimony of an individual unsupported by the more conclusive evidence of circumstances. It is that of a man named Murphy, who was convicted of rape before Mr. Justice BRUNNEN, at the Barracks Assizes, about six or seven years ago. No evidence could be more positive and distinct than that of the prosecutrix, and the unfortunate prisoner was condemned to death, without the smallest hope of mercy being held out to him. Yet it subsequently turned out, beyond all question, that the statement of this young woman was from beginning to end a lie. Happily the discovery was made in time to save the man's life.

Seeing all these things, we cannot but be surprised at finding so many jurors who still cling to the belief that no evidence can be so complete without some testimony as to identity. Some evidence as to the accused having been actually seen to commit the crime with which he is charged. And yet this feeling prevails to a very great extent—no great, indeed, as sometimes to produce such stupidity, if not such injustice. We will merely allude to one case of this kind, which occurred at the last Assizes of the Supreme Court, and which was lately referred to in the columns of this paper.

The case was that of a man named Murphy, who was convicted of rape before Mr. Justice BRUNNEN, at the Barracks Assizes, about six or seven years ago. No evidence could be more positive and distinct than that of the prosecutrix, and the unfortunate prisoner was condemned to death, without the smallest hope of mercy being held out to him. Yet it subsequently turned out, beyond all question, that the statement of this young woman was from beginning to end a lie. Happily the discovery was made in time to save the man's life.

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The stolen property was traced to his possession immediately after its abstraction, and, had upon his person, was found a housebreaker's instrument, such as must have been used for effecting an entrance into the premises where the robbery was committed. This, one would think, was pretty conclusive; and yet one juror was found to stand out for an hour or two for a verdict of acquittal, because no one had seen this man commit the robbery. As if an experienced thief, such as this man was, would ever have committed an offence of this kind without first assuring himself that he was unobserved. This incredulous juror gave way at last, and there was a conviction. But there was one man, unquestionably a murderer, for it was subsequently ascertained that he had made an admission of his guilt—against him the chain of circumstantial evidence was as complete as could well be conceived, and yet he escaped. Rumour says, however, that he has elsewhere attained that "elevated" position which his merits failed to procure for him.

The precise duty of the juror is often misunderstood. He is not bound to see beyond all possibility of doubt that a prisoner is guilty before he can arrive at a verdict to that effect; but to judge upon his oath, from the evidence before him. If this evidence excludes any reasonable conclusion of the prisoner's innocence, then it is as much a breach of the juror's sworn duty for him to pronounce a verdict of not guilty, as it would be for him to convict the accused upon slight and insufficient testimony. To give the prisoner the benefit of all doubts which may arise, is a wise and humane maxim in British jurisprudence; but it is only of reasonable doubts that the prisoner is to have the benefit. If a doubt can be removed upon a mature consideration of the whole circumstances of the case, then to make a loophole for the escape of a guilty man is a direct breach of the juror's duty. And before pronouncing a verdict every juror is bound to consider with great care whether any doubts which may have arisen can thus be explained away.

It is doubtless better that many great criminals should escape than that one innocent man should be punished unjustly, but both are great evils, and therefore to be avoided. Every juror should enter the box with a determination to apply his reason and not his prejudice to the facts before him; and any individual known to pursue a different course should be carefully excluded. Such a man is unworthy to participate in the task of upholding the majesty of the law.

## THE LATENT RESOURCES OF POLYNESIA.

Natural History of the Islands.—Trees valuable for their timber.—Trees from which clothing is manufactured.—Trees valuable for their fruit.—Fruit-trees.—Fruit-productions introduced and cultivated at the Islands.—Quadrupeds.—Birds.—Fish.

This Chapter is devoted to a synopsis of the natural history of the Polynesian Islands, and is almost exclusively an abstract from the more lengthened descriptions of Mr. Ellis.

Many of the smaller hills, and the sides of the loftiest mountains, are clothed with forests of stately trees. Among these, the most valuable is the apapa—a tree, resembling in its habit of growth the eucalypti of New Holland, and the pines of New Zealand, rearing its straight and branchless trunk, two or three feet in diameter, to the height of forty or fifty feet, and spreading above a light crown of pale green leaves, not much unlike the leaves of the English ash. The wood of the tree, which is harder than the pine, and of a beautiful pink or salmon colour, is easily worked and durable. It is frequently used by the natives in building their canoes. The faithful is another tree resembling this, but rather smaller in size; the wood of a bright yellow colour, and hard texture. Numbers of small kinds of timber are found on the mountains, but these two are the most valuable.

Next to these, there is a numerous class that grow on the sides of the hills, and connect the forest of the mountains with the woods of the valley and the plain. The principal of these is the alio or tree, *Casuarina equisetifolia*. The shape of this tree is remarkably light and elegant, and its appearance is superior to that of the most graceful of the first. The wood, when first cut, is of a deep red, but on exposure to the air it assumes a dark chestnut or black colour. It is exceedingly hard, and more durable than any other wood produced among the islands. By foreigners it is often called iron-wood, and it was formerly employed by the inhabitants in the manufacture of their implements of war. The rena, *Palau spartea*, is another large and useful tree, growing on the sides of the mountains, where is also found the diari, or candle-nut tree, *Albizia triboia*. The form of this tree is stately, and the foliage, which is beautifully white, gives a pleasing relief to the verdure of the mountain sides. The most valuable and beautiful trees, however, are those that grow in the valleys or plains; the chief of these is the splendid tamara or tree, *Corymbium inophyllum*. This, like most of the trees in the islands, is an evergreen; the leaves resemble those of the laurel in shape, but are more dark and shining; the trunk seldom rises above twelve or twenty feet without branching, yet it is one of the most magnificent trees in the country. The stem is often four feet in diameter, and the grain of the wood resembles mahogany, the colour being rather lighter, but the texture equally close, and the wood more durable. It is one of the most valuable kinds of timber, and is not only used by the natives in the manufacture of their household furniture, but as keels for their larger canoes. For the latter purpose it is peculiarly well adapted, as it is a kind of wood which the insects never perforate. Next to this the huta, *Barringtonia speciosa*, is the most splendid tree. Its growth and foliage greatly resemble the magnolia, and when in full bloom, its gigantic spike adorned with large white flowers whose petals are edged with pink, render it a most imposing object. The trunk is frequently three or four feet in diameter, but though occasionally used it is less prized than the tamara or tree which is a species of cordia and is a valuable tree. Next to the alio, the miro, *Thespesia populnea*, though of smaller growth, is most highly prized by the people. The wood is durable, the grain is close, and the colour a variegated chestnut. The stem, though deciduous, is a beautiful tree; it is *erythrina coraladensis*, and when in blossom its light green acacia foliage, adorned with bright red papilionaceous flowers, render it a most pleasing object. The branches are occasionally employed in fencing, but the wood of the trunk being remarkably spongy, is seldom used. The sea shore is generally ornamented with several kinds of mimosa, but none of any great beauty or value. One of the most serviceable trees is the pursa or fan, *Hibiscus tiliaceus*; in all the islands it is more abundant than any other tree, and though generally crooked and branching, the wood is light, tough, and durable. On account of its lightness, elasticity, and strength, it is selected for paddles and bows. It also

furnishes the best boards for the native vessels, and its long slender branches make excellent rafters for the ordinary dwellings. The mara and the puna, *Artocarpus integrifolia* of Parkinson, is also a useful as well as an elegant tree, while its blossoms are among the most fragrant of native flowers. To the above catalogue many others might be added, which, though inferior in size and number, are highly serviceable to the natives.

Next to the trees that furnish them with timber, those plants from which they formerly procured their clothing require to be noticed. The most valuable of these is the nut, *Morus papayifera*, or the Chinese paper mulberry. The greater part of the cloth worn in the islands is made from the bark of this plant, which is cultivated as oaks or willow twigs are cultivated in England, excepting that instead of the low wet situations a rich and dry soil is selected. The nut is a large, dry, round, and resembling the banana or India fig tree, and propagating itself in a similar manner by sending its branches to the earth where they take root and become trees, thus forming, with the parent stem, a kind of bower. Nearly allied to the nut is the mate, *Ficus prolixa*, an useful tree, its berries furnishing a beautiful scarlet dye, and its bark supplying the cord for the manufacture of the large and durable nets employed in taking salmon. The romthia, *Artocarpus argentea*, is also a valuable plant, with the bark of which the natives twist their strong and elastic fishing-lines and the cord for their smaller nets.

The vegetable productions from which the inhabitants derive a great part of their subsistence are numerous, varied, and valuable; among these the first that demands notice is the bread-fruit tree, *Artocarpus*, being in greater abundance and in more general use than any other. The tree is large and umbrageous, the bark is light-coloured and rough, the trunk is sometimes two or three feet in diameter, and rises from twelve to twenty feet without a branch. The leaves of the tree are remarkably beautiful, like those of the fig-tree, frequently two or eight inches long, and rather thick, of a dark green colour, with a surface glossy as that of the richest evergreen. The fruit is generally circular or oval, and is, on an average, six inches in diameter; it is covered with a rough rind, which is marked with small square or lozenge shaped divisions, having each a small elevation in the centre, and it is at first of a light pea-green colour; subsequently it changes to brown, and when fully ripe assumes a rich yellow tinge. It is attached to the small branches of the tree by a short thick stalk, and hangs either singly or in clusters of two or three together. The pulp is soft, but in the centre there is a hard kind of core extending from the stalk to the crown, around which a few important seeds are formed. Next to the bread-fruit tree, the banana is the most serviceable article of food the natives possess, and its culture receives a considerable share of their attention. It has a large solid tuberous root of an oblong shape, sometimes nine or twelve inches in length, and five or six in diameter. The plant has no stalk; the broad heart-shaped leaves rising from the upper end of the root, and the flower being contained in a sheath or spathe. There are several varieties, for thirty-three of which the natives have distinct names, and as the plant is found to thrive best in moist situations it is cultivated in low marshy parts. A large kind, called *apam cotatum*, which is frequently planted in the dry grounds, is also used in some seasons, but is considered inferior to the two grown upon marshy lands; the *utia* or *yam*, *Discorea alata*, a most valuable root, appears to be indigenous in most of the South Sea Islands, and grows remarkably well. Several kinds flourish in the mountains. The shape of the root is generally long and round, and the substance although rather fibrous, is remarkably farinaceous and sweet. The umara or sweet potato, *Convolvulus batatas*, or *chrysanthus*, is grown by the natives as an article of food. In size, shape, and structure, it resembles several kinds of the Irish potato. The patara is a root growing wild in the valleys, in shape and taste resembling a potato more than any other root found in Tahiti. It is highly farinaceous, though less nutritive than the yam. The stem resembles the woodbine or convolvulus. Theopha or arrowroot, *Calocasia latifolia*, is indigenous and abundant. It is sometimes cultivated, but in most of the islands it grows spontaneously on the high sandy banks near the sea, or on the sides of the lower mountains, and appears to thrive best in light soils and dry situations. Arrowroot has recently been prepared in large quantities, as an article of exportation to England; but although it is equal to that brought from the West Indies, it has not been so well cleaned, dried, or packed, and has consequently appeared very inferior when it has been brought into the market. There is reason to believe that the natives shall have acquired better methods of preparing their arrowroot to make a valuable article of commerce. There is a very large and beautiful species of fern, called by the natives Nabel, the leaves of which are fragrant, and in seasons of scarcity the large tuberous kind of root is baked and eaten. It is insipid, affords little nutriment, and is only resorted to when other supplies fail. It is altogether a different plant from the fern, the root of which is eaten by the natives of New Zealand. The berries or apples of the nono, *Morinda citrifolia*, and the stalks of the pohue, *Convolvulus brasiliensis*, are also eaten in times of famine. The fruits of the islands are not so numerous as in some continental countries of similar temperature, but they are valuable; and next to the bread-fruit the haari or cocconut, *Cocos nucifera* is the most serviceable. The tree on which it grows is also one of the most useful and ornamental in the islands, imparting to the landscape, in which it forms a conspicuous object, all the richness and elegance of intertropical verdure. The stem is perfectly cylindrical, three or four feet in diameter at the root, very gradually tapering to the top, where it is probably not more than eighteen inches round. It is one single stem from the root to the crown, composed, apparently, of a vast number of small hollow reeds, united by a kind of resinous pith, and enclosed in a rough, brittle, and exceedingly hard bark. The stem is without branch or leaf, excepting at the top, where a beautiful crown of tuft of long green leaves appears like a graceful plume waving in the fitful breeze, or nodding over the spreading wood or the humble shrubbery. The nut begins to grow in a few months after it is planted; in about five or six years the stem is seven or eight feet high, and the tree begins to bear. It continues to grow and bear fifty or sixty years, or perhaps longer. The cocconut, although it will grow in the rich bottoms of the valleys, and by the side of the streams, that flow through them, yet flourishes equally on the barren sea beach, amid fragments of coral and sand, where its roots are washed by every rising tide; and on the sunburnt sides of the mountains where the soil is shallow, and remote from the streams so favourable to vegetation. Cocconuts were formerly a considerable article of food among the common people, and were used with profusion at every feast of

the chiefs, but for some years past they have been preserved, and allowed to ripen on the tree for the purpose of preparing oil. More rich and sweet to the taste, though far less serviceable as articles of food, are the maia, plantain and banana, *Musa paradisiaca*, and *Musa sapientum*. These are also indigenous, although generally cultivated in the native gardens. They are a rich nutritive fruit, common within the tropics, and so generally known as to need no particular description here. There are not, perhaps, fewer than thirty varieties cultivated by the natives, besides nearly twenty kinds of the mountains. The oreo, or maiden plantain, with the other varieties, comes to the highest perfection in the South Sea Islands, and is a delicious fruit.

The Vi, or Brazilian plum, a variety of *Spondias tomentosa* (of Parkinson) is an abundant and excellent fruit, of an oval or oblong shape, and bright yellow colour. In form and taste it somewhat resembles a magnus bonum plum, but it is larger, and instead of a stone has a hard and spiked core, containing a number of seeds. The tree on which it grows is deciduous, and one of the largest found in the islands; the trunk being frequently four or five feet in diameter. The bark is gray and smooth, the leaf pinnate, of a light green colour, the fruit hangs in bunches, and is often so plentiful that the ground underneath the trees is covered with ripe fruit, while the satisfied and almost surfeited pigs lie sleeping about its roots. The alia, or jambo, *Cajuput Malaccensis*, is perhaps the most juicy of the indigenous fruits of the Polynesian Islands. It resembles in shape a small oblong apple, is of a bright beautiful red colour, and has a white, juicy, but rather insipid, pulp. In certain seasons of the year, if the bread-fruit be scarce, the natives supply the deficiency thus occasioned with the fruit of the ma-pe or rata, a native chestnut, *Tournefortia edulis*. Like other chestnut trees the ma-pe is of stately growth and splendid foliage. It is occasionally seen in the high grounds, but flourishes only in the rich bottoms of the valleys, and seldom appears in greater perfection than on the margin of a stream. From the top of a mountain the course of a river may often be traced out by the winding and almost unbroken line of chestnuts that tower in majesty above the trees of humbler growth. In addition to these the ti-root, *Decaspermum terminalis*, is baked and eaten, and the *Macaranga*, *apricaria*, which grows spontaneously, and perhaps in greater perfection than in any other part of the world, was formerly cultivated and eaten raw. On a journey the natives often carry a piece of sugar-cane which furnishes a sweet and nourishing juice, appearing at once to a certain degree, both thirst and hunger. Within a few years they have been taught in some of the islands to extract the juice, and by boiling it, to prepare a very good sugar. Many other trees, fruits, and esculents, the products of Europe and of the Asiatic continent have been introduced and have been found to succeed admirably. Cotton and coffee have been introduced at nearly all the islands; Pine-apples and other tropical fruits of the finest quality are now grown at most of these places. The nutmeg and some other spices, although inferior to those grown in the Indian Archipelago, are nevertheless found. The vine, citrus, figs, and some other fruits, of a more temperate climate, are produced in equal luxuriance. Tobacco is not only grown but manufactured at some of the islands. English wheat will not grow, but maize, rice, and several other kinds of grain succeed very well. Melons, cucumbers, beans, and other esculents of the same nature are plentifully grown at most of the European settlements.

The only venomous reptiles are a species of centipede and a small kind of scorpion; the natives are seldom stung by them, and though the bite of the latter is painful it is not attended with danger or serious inconvenience. There are no beasts of prey nor wild animals, with the exception of a few boars or hogs, and dogs in the mountains, and these are not often troublesome.

The vampire bats, or, as they are called in Australia, flying foxes, and many smaller animals of the same class, are found at some of the islands; at the Samoaes and at Mangaia, for instance. Snakes are found at all the Samoa Islands, some of them are very beautiful, but they are of small size, and are none of them venomous. With the exception of the fish on the coasts, the variety and abundance in the animal is much inferior to that in the vegetable productions of the South Sea Islands. Hogs, dogs, rats, and lizards, were the only quadrupeds originally found among them. Hogs, which were brought by the first inhabitants, were found in the island by Wallis and Cook. These, however, differed considerably from the present breed, which is a mixture of English and Spanish. The aboriginal swine are described as having been smaller than the generality of hogs now are, with long legs, long noses, curly or almost woolly hair, and short erect ears. An animal of this kind is now and then seen. The swine now reared are large, and often well fed; they are never confined in sties, but range about in search of food. These that feed at the heads of the valleys live chiefly upon roots and roots, while those kept about the houses of the natives are fed occasionally with bread fruit or coconuts.

To these, horses, asses, horned cattle, goats, and sheep, have been added, and, excepting the latter, appear to thrive exceedingly well. Rabbits have been several times taken to the islands, and either turned loose or fed in pens, but the climate or food does not seem to be suitable, and they seldom live long. The feathered tribes of the South Sea Islands, like those of the Northern Pacific, are not distinguished by brilliancy of plumage or melody of song. There are, however, several varieties, and some of them in amazing numbers. The most numerous class are the aquatic birds. These skim the surface of the ocean, derive their subsistence from the sea or in the hollows of the craggy rocks, or haunt the lagoons and streams, rearing their young and reposing by the side of the island and among the tall grass and rushes that border the extensive lakes and marshy hollows. Among the former may be reckoned the stately albatross, *diomedea exulans*, called by the natives, obutu; the tropic bird, *phoenicurus aethiops*, called otaha, several kinds of petrel called otahara, and others. These abound in all the islands. Among the lakes are several kinds of heron, and wild ducks resort to the lagoons and marshes. There are many kinds of birds of prey, and a number of the woodpecker tribe, with some small parrots of rich and splendid plumage. In the inland parts of some of the islands there is the turtle dove, which is called upua, and among the mountains are pigeons, which from the sound of their notes, the natives call uiauro. Among the singing birds, which are not numerous, the oronotus is the most conspicuous.

The vampire bat was formerly exterminated by the natives as an evil or deity—Williams' Miss. Nat. p. 47.

It is about the size of the English thrush, of a yellow and brown speckled colour, and in its note it resembles the thrush more than any other bird. The most useful bird, however, is the common domestic fowl, called moa by the natives; these were found among the islands by their discoverers, and appear to have been there as long as the people. Besides the tame fowls there are numbers wild in different parts of the island which range the woods, feeding on fruits or insects; these are occasionally taken by the natives but are inferior to those that are domesticated.

Fish are numerous in the seas that surround the islands, they abound on their coasts, among the reefs, and in their extensive lagoons, the enormous whale, called by the people tohora, is often seen by the natives in their canoes, pursuing his gigantic pastime, raising his unwieldy bulk above the water and spouting it in the air. The black fish pass along their straits, and the porpoises often appear in shoals to exhibit their gambols to the great amusement of the people, frequently throwing their whole bodies several feet out of the water, curving their tail and falling headlong into the sea; the natives call them oia, a word which also signifies to spring or jump. Here also are seen a great number of the ray species, from the large *unus diabolus* to the smallest kind; and a great variety of the *medusa* or cuttle fish. The fleet, beautiful, and sportive dolphin, and the anomalous creature called the flying-fish, that pursues its way alternately through the water and the air, and seems the uniting link between the feathered and the finny tribes, are also found here. The natives call it marara. The totara or hedgehog-fish, is also found among their reefs. The opera, *scorpaenodes* of Linnæus, resorts to the coasts in large shoals at stated seasons of the year, and is taken in great numbers by the people. The islands are usually expert fishermen, and fish is a principal means of support for those who reside near the shore. The albacore, bonito, ray, swordfish, and shark, the porpoise and the dolphin, are among the larger sea fish that are caught by them. In addition to which, they have an almost endless variety of rock fish, which are remarkably sweet and good. In the rivers they find prawns and eels, and in their lakes, when there is an opening to the sea, multitudes of excellent fish are always found; among others, is a salmon, which at certain seasons of the year, is taken in great abundance. It exactly resembles the northern salmon in size, shape, and structure, but the flesh is much whiter than that of the salmon of Europe, or of those taken on the northern coasts of America. In the sand they find mussels and cockles, and on the coral reefs a great variety of shell fish; among which the principal are crabs, lobsters, winks, a large species of clam, and several varieties of *echinus* or sea egg. Numbers of turtle are also found among the reefs and low coralline or sandy islands. The turtle was once considered sacred; a part of every one taken was offered to the gods, and the rest, dressed with sacred fire, was only eaten by the kings and chiefs. Now they are eaten by whosoever they are caught. Most of their fish are very good, and furnish a dish of which the European never tires. The rivers furnish but few fresh water fish; the eels are the principal, and they are very fine. Eels being great favourites are sometimes tamed and fed till they attain an enormous size.

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